The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accurate and authorized interpretations of matters affecting labor executive in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1830 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1946 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 36, NO. 19

SAVE FOOD—
Help Relieve
Famine Abroad

South Preparing Hearty Welcome For Inauguration of Big AFL Drive

Asheville, N. C.—The South is preparing to accord a vociferous welcome to the greatest gathering of organized labor in its history when the AFL Southern Labor Conference assembles here May 11 and 12.

The meeting is arousing remarkable interest throughout the 13 States where the forthcoming Southern organizing drive of the AFL will be conducted. Hundreds of delegates already are pouring into hotels here, along with newspapermen, photographers and radio commentators.

Typifying the public interest in the AFL's program for unionizing the unorganized workers of the South, which will be charted at the conference here, is the fact that Ralph McGill, noted editor-in-chief of the Atlanta Constitution, one of the foremost newspapers in the South, will deliver the welcoming address.

Other guest speakers who already have accepted invitations to appear are U. S. Senator Wayne B. Morse, of Oregon; Federal Housing Expediter Wilson W. Wyatt; Gerald D. Reilly, member of the National Labor Relations Board, and several high-ranking public officials from the South.

Labor speakers will be headed by AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, and Organization Director Frank Fenton.

George Googe, AFL Southern Director of Organization, will preside at the conference.

One of the features of the conference will be a "Cross Section—AFL" radio program in which Mr. Green, Mr. Googe and several delegates to the conference will be interviewed by CBS Commentator Dwight Cooke. This program will be broadcast to the entire Nation at 2:45 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, May 11.

Delegates already are preparing resolutions for submission to the conference outlining the purposes of the AFL's organizing drive and the policies which will be pursued.

One of these resolution will pledge cooperation with the unions in building higher economic standards for the people of the South and a second will offer labor's friendly assistance to Southern farmers in securing the goals of agriculture.

The goal of the drive is a million new AFL members within the coming year. The AFL already has 1,500,000 members in the South who are organized into more than 6,000 local unions. Chief emphasis of the organizing campaign will be to unionize unorganized workers in textile and chemical plants and in the lumber and sawmill industry. However many new miscellaneous industries will be included.

AFL Pledges Full Support To Lewis In Coal Strike

Washington, D. C.—President William Green pledged the full support of the American Federation of Labor to the United Mine Workers Union in its current fight to obtain justice from the coal operators.

In a letter to UMW President John L. Lewis, Mr. Green said:

"The seven million members of the American Federation of Labor will be with you, will resent the unjustifiable attacks which are being made upon you and will insist and demand that the mine workers, as free men in a free America, shall be accorded the right to mobilize and use their economic strength to secure justice, security and protection."

As the wolf-pack of press and radio commentators, anti-labor Congressmen and reactionary Government officials howled denunciations against Mr. Lewis for precipitating the acute coal shortage, Mr. Green boldly charged to the mine leader's defense.

"The right of labor will be courage, the spirit and the determination with which you are fighting for adequate health and safety provisions for the miners and welfare provisions for their dependents," the AFL chieftain declared. "Your struggle preserves the cooperation and support of all classes of people.

"Be assured we of the American Federation of Labor stand with you in the noble fight you are making. Justice for the tragic victims of mine explosions and for their dependents is long overdue. The moment has arrived when humanitarianism must triumph over greed. The time has come when the callous indifference of the coal operators to the welfare of the mine workers must be overcome.

"Public opinion throughout the nation should be united in a demand that the coal operators recede from their uncompromising position. The mine workers of the nation who risk their lives every moment during the course of their employment are entitled to decent wages, security, protection and the enjoyment of an American standard of living."

The public blasts against Lewis and the miners proceeds after the White House had made public a report warning that the coal shutdown may have "disastrous" effects if the dispute is not settled soon.

Senator Lucas of Illinois, who used to pose as a friend of labor, demanded that Mr. Lewis be thrown into jail. The pettifogging Senator from Virginia, Rep. Howard Smith, introduced a bill hurriedly to make royalty payments to the miners for a health and welfare fund illegal.

President Truman conferred at length with his top advisers and was reported in the press to have reached the decision that it would be unwise for the Government to take over and attempt to operate the mines.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the union representatives and the coal operators continued with Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach and several aides taking part. As yet no definite progress has been reported.

Congress, Angered By CIO, Opposing Labor, Green Says

Meany Hits State Drives To Cut Workers' Freedom

Philadelphia.—The American Federation of Labor has repelled the rising tide of State antilabor legislation and will not rest until all such measures are wiped out of the statute books, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor convention here.

Assailing the various regulatory measures adopted in several States as oppressive invasions of the freedom of American workers and their trade unions, Mr. Meany said:

"The American Federation of Labor has done more to build up the standards of life and work here in America than has any other organization anywhere since the dawn of history. Are we going to allow this record of achievement, extending back three-quarters of a century, to be destroyed by adverse legislation at the State level?

"No, I don't think so. We are going to move forward, raising wages, improving standards, protecting and enlarging the welfare of wage-earners in every possible way. We are not going to be stopped by antilabor legislation, even when that legislation is signed by the yellow-dog contract, the company union, the injunction or the company guards with their spies and their shotguns.

Mr. Meany chose as his chief targets the Florida and Arkansas State amendments banning the closed shop and a South Dakota law aimed at like same objective.

"The State of Florida, the State of Arkansas and the State of South Dakota have decreed that the workers who belong to unions must stay on the job and must work alongside nonunion men, whether they want to or not," Mr. Meany said. "Would you tolerate any such interference with your freedom?

"We are fighting this vicious doctrine with all our resources and we will fight it to the last ditch. These laws have reenacted the hateful doctrine of involuntary servitude, which was abolished by the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. These are the sort of laws the enemies of labor have succeeded in quietly enacting in 12 States while the attention of the nation was focused on the war and the great problems of reconversion.

"Don't let anyone tell you these laws are unimportant. A flank attack can be just as deadly as a frontal assault.

"We have accomplished more, as workers, than the people of any other land and we mean to have more in the future. Our organization as the American Federation of Labor and free to fight, as an organization of trade unionists, for a better life for ourselves and our families.

"If we are to keep our country great, we must see to it that our workers remain free."

Laundry Workers Plan Intensive Southern Drive

Washington, D. C.—Plans for an intensive campaign to organize laundry workers throughout the South were announced by Sam J. Byars, president of the Laundry Workers' International Union (AFL), in an article prepared for the American Federationist, official AFL publication.

Citing marked strides made in union-management relations through newly-negotiated contracts, Byers said:

"The laundries considered war measures unskilled workers prior to the war. They learned their mistake from the abominable and costly work turned out by temporary workers who tried to fill the places of those who went into the armed services of war plants.

"During the past year we have been successful in markedly increasing our membership and our rates of pay. Confidence and satisfaction pervade the membership. The heavy turnover of the war days has slowed down and we are getting some of our old members back. Employers in the laundry industry are learning that fair wages, as advocated by the union, are good business and pay dividends.

"We are getting across to the unorganized laundry workers of the South the benefit to them of what organization has done to others in their industry. In some sections of the South wages are as low as 15 cents an hour. The workers have no vacations and no extra pay for holiday work.

"We have recently negotiated a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour in San Francisco. It is our intention to bring these workers up to possible, the scales in Southern cities to this level.

"We are concentrating on the South because it is there the workers are the most ruthlessly exploited, living under conditions of economic slavery comparable to pre-Civil War times."

Woll Offers Russia AFL Bulletin On Policies of Free Trade Unions

New York City.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll announced he will ask Soviet officials here to arrange for the circulation in Russia of an American Federation of Labor bulletin on free trade unionism.

This eight-page pamphlet has been translated into several other foreign languages, as well as Russian, and will be circulated throughout Europe and South America, Mr. Woll said.

He declared that he intends to send a copy to Andrei A. Gromyko, Soviet member of the United Nations Security Council, with a request that permission be given for the distribution of thousands of copies in Russia.

However, Mr. Woll feared he was somewhat pessimistic about the request, in view of the "iron curtain" which has always displayed a hostile attitude toward the AFL. The Federation, he claim, has consistently opposed Communism.

A key paragraph in the pamphlet reads as follows:

"The workers of all free lands know that the Washington policies of the AFL—its unswerving loyalty to democratic principles and its unyielding opposition to every type of dictatorship, to every shade and stripe of totalitarian tyranny."

The bulletin contains articles calling for "solidarity among democratic forces everywhere," demanding defeat for Franco Spain, supporting Chinese workers in their fight against oppressive government measures, explaining the AFL's program for full employment and social security, outlining AFL policies on the reorganization of trade unions in occupied Germany and Japan and endorsing the proposed U. S. loan to Britain.

Mr. Woll's disclosure of the AFL's move to "make Russian workers familiar with the views of American labor," as expressed in the pamphlet, was revealed in passing as he outlined at a press conference the Federation's major efforts in Spain, Germany and Latin America.

He announced the AFL has asked acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson to protest the imprisonment of a Spaniard who was charged with Communist activities. Joaquin Rafael Robledo, who was serving as an agent for the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights.

"I don't need to tell you," said Mr. Woll, "that we are opposed to Communism and wouldn't send anybody to Spain to promote it."

Social Security Expansion Is Proposed by Altmeyer

Washington, D. C.—Increased Federal aid, under the social security system, to provide "adequate aid to any needy person," was urged upon the House Ways and Means Committee by Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board.

Sharply criticizing the limitations of the present plan, under which States share on a 50-50 basis in the cost of general assistance, Mr. Altmeyer proposed Federal entry into the field of general assistance to aid "inexpensively" adults other than the aged and blind, the only beneficiaries who have eligibility under the Social Security Act."

The amount of assistance which the Federal Government would share equally with a State is limited to a Federal-State total of $40 a month for a recipient of old-age assistance or aid to the blind, and $18 for the first child and $12 for each other child aided in a family receiving aid to dependent children," he said.

"Thus Federal funds may represent no more than $20 a month of the payment to an aged or blind person and, for families receiving aid to dependent children, $9 a month for one child receiving aid and $6 additional for each other child aided States may, and many do, make payments in excess of the Federal matching maximums, but they must pay all the additional amount from State or local funds."

Calling attention to the plans for assistance since the end of the war—a situation marked by increasing unemployment and lower earnings, Mr. Altmeyer told the committee:

"The number of families receiving aid to dependent children has increased 12 percent since V-J Day. The number of general assistance cases has increased 33 percent."

Calling attention to the limited resources of communities in different parts of the Nation, Altmeyer said:

"In the fiscal year 1944-45, expenditures for general assistance represented $1.65 per inhabitant in one State and about 2 cents per inhabitant in the poorest State.

"The Social Security Board believes that Federal participation in general assistance, so that adequate aid will be available to any needy person, is an essential part of an adequate program of social security. Federal financial participation in general assistance should follow the pattern established for matching under the Social Security Act for special types of public assistance."

Arguing for special aid to low-income States, Mr. Altmeyer said that "the poorer States have a larger proportion of needy persons, but cannot only less Federal aid per needy person, but also less Federal aid in proportion to total population."

Under his plan, high-income States would continue to receive contributions for their assistance programs on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis, "but the States with low economic ability would receive more than a dollar of Federal funds for each dollar they themselves provide," he noted.

Noting that "need for medical care by private patients is not met adequately," Altmeyer proposed that the law be amended "to enable the States to obtain Federal matching payments made to doctors, hospitals, clinics, etc., for medical care supplied to needy persons."

URGES STRONG OPA

San Francisco, Calif.—C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, urged all California unions and councils to contact their Senators to vote for retention of the Price Control Act without crippling amendments.

AFL Chief Charges Political Policy of CIO Blockades Postwar Program

Philadelphia.—AFL President William Green bluntly charged that the CIO has turned Congressional pursuit labor because of its partisan political attempts to smear Congressmen and its Communistic policies.

Addressing the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor Convention, Mr. Green declared that a coalition in Congress is against anything the CIO is for and for anything the CIO is against, regardless of the merits of the legislation.

"This is the tragic situation which organized labor faces as the result of the division in the ranks of labor and the unsound policies which the rebel movement espouses," the AFL leader emphasized.

"Congress is not in revolt against the President. It has declared legislative and political war against the CIO."

Before the advent of the CIO, Mr. Green said, the AFL had succeeded in reducing the enemies of labor to "an ineffectual minority." Today, he warned, the enemies of labor are in "the driver's seat in Congress."

To back up this assertion, Mr. Green pointed out that the Norris-LaGuardia Act, the Wagner Labor Relations Act and the Social Security Act were adopted before the CIO came into being. Many Congressmen who voted for these progressive measures are now opposing similar legislation because the CIO opposed them politically despite their good voting records, Mr. Green alleged.

As a remedy, the AFL leader urged a reunited labor movement. He predicted CIO unions not dominated by Communist leaders will soon see the "handwriting on the wall" and follow the United Mine Workers and the Ladies Garment Workers back into the AFL fold.

"Without unity labor is like a machine without a motor," Mr. Green stressed.

He also urged concerted action by State Federations of Labor and city central bodies to back up the AFL's recommendations on legislation and its nonpartisan endorsements for candidates for Congress.

Mr. Green appealed for an immediate written campaign by AFL members and their friends everywhere to save the OPA from being killed by amendments, to defeat the anti-labor Case bill and to bring about House approval of the long-range housing program contained in the Wagner-Taft bill, supported by the AFL.

Regarding the House amendments to the OPA extension bill, Mr. Green charged they "would guarantee immediate inflation and eventual depression" and "drive prosperity so far around the corner that it might take years for us to coax it back."

He warned that the housing bill faces a hard fight in the House after its Senate victory and added:

"Let us concentrate our forces on this legislation and prevail upon our Representatives in Congress to consider the Senate bill. The higher the tide of telegrams and mail from the people the members of your union, the more certain it will be that the House will approve the Senate bill. I appeal for your assistance in bringing about this legislative achievement."

As to the general postwar legislative program, Mr. Green declared that Congress has acted "like a balky mule, refusing to budge on a number of vital postwar measures and kicking over the traces on others."

"Obviously, this unsatisfactory and chaotic condition cannot be permitted to continue indefinitely. Congress can and must be called to account.

"The American Federation of Labor, with its seven million members and all their relatives and friends, can command the most powerful voting group in the Nation. If we stand together on election day, we cannot be defeated. If we resist the siren calls of other organizations and the demagogic appeals of those who suddenly discover their friendship for labor in October and November, if we march in a body to the polls determined to back up the endorsements of the American Federation of Labor with our votes, victory is assured."

Justice On the Miners' Side

Washington, D. C.—The justice of the coal miners' cause is upheld in the following excerpt from an article in the United Mine Workers Journal:

"From the very start of the bituminous coal wage negotiations the operators have attempted to pooh-pooh the UMW demands for the establishment of a health and welfare fund and a guarantee of the acceptance by the operators of compliance with safety laws in accordance with mine inspectors' recommendations. Operators have openly defied declaration of the NLRB decision granting collective bargaining rights to supervisory employees.

"Repeatedly, the operators have insisted that these demands—fundamental principles—be put aside, and that wage negotiations be confined solely to a discussion of hours and dollars-and-cents earnings and pay increases.

"There is nothing new about this pattern. Operators through the years . . . have been solely interested in dollars and cents.

The whole propaganda program of the operators . . . is tied to the hope that (they) will be able to convince the public that the UMWA is responsible for the breakdown in negotiations.

"Every investigator, every reporter who has gone to the coal fields to investigate . . . has found a multitude of victims of inadequate compensation and medical care.

"American coal miners are fed up with the stalling tactics and continued refusal of coal operators to consider the financial obligation of industry to meet the human needs of the men who man America's basic industry."

AFL Survey Asks Voice For Labor In Government Economic Agencies

Washington, D. C.—Representation of labor, management, farmers and other citizens' groups in economic agencies of the American Government was urged by Labor's Monthly Survey, official publication of the AFL.

"Giving the citizens a voice through their economic organizations is the democratic way to mobilize initiative and avoid the danger of concentrating powers in Government hands," the article declared. "Participation is the life of democracy. Free men can work together for progress. Communist regimentation offers nothing which can compare with the cooperation of free citizens."

The survey, discussing peaceful settlement of disputes, cited the electrical construction industry, with 150,000 workers and 1,500 firms, which has been free of major labor strife for 25 years.

"Its Council on Industrial Relations, established in 1920, is today becoming the model for other industries," it added. "The plan is simple. A 10-man council, composed of five union and five industry representatives, is the supreme court for settlement of disputes. A joint union and management planning committee studies future economic problems. Local labor-management committees thrash out local problems daily. The plan has ended union-management hostilities, encouraged peace, resulted in efficient work at high pay. Workers and employers have prospered, the union has been strengthened, and the public has had better service."

Union-management cooperation in the railroad industry was cited as another example of how successful such plans can be. Out of the rail strike in the early 30's, the survey pointed out, came a plan for union-management cooperation to call repair shops. Joint committees of labor and management studied mutual problems. Workers offered many suggestions, and through these improvements came gains in railroad income which brought wage increases and other benefits.

During the war, union-management cooperation in 4,000 plants was spread to more than 4,000,000 workers in 2,500 plants, the survey added. "A partial study early in 1944 showed at least 700 committees dealing with such problems as improving production, care of tools, absenteeism, safety and health, training and many other matters important in daily shop work. Through these committees workers contributed immensely to speed the war effort.

"During the war, labor and management representatives on the War Labor Board, the War Manpower Commission and other agencies gave workers and employers a great share in the war effort without which our production miracles could never have been achieved."

The AFL economists saw a bright outlook for employment during the next year.

"Right after V-J Day," the report said, "forecasters estimated that by March, 1946, 8,000,000 people would be out of work. Actually, Government figures show less than 3,000,000 unemployed. The reason (1) the demand for workers in industry has been much greater than expected; and (2) some 5,000,000 people have retired from work, which is more than was anticipated, and many veterans are taking college courses or vacationing on their terminal pay.

"Retail sales today are the highest in history, now running at a level of more than 90 billion a year, compared to the previous peacetime peak of 65 billion in 1941. Some forecasters expect that by early 1947 58,200,000 will be working in civilian jobs and 1,900,000 in military service—total 60,000,000."

Belt Tightening Is Urged By Green to Aid Hungry

AFL President William Green, speaking on the Cross Section—AFL broadcast each Saturday at 2:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, over the National Broadcasting System, has asked that the following appeal for the conservation of foodstuffs everywhere so that they can make advance plans in time:

May 7—Southern Director. AFL President William Green, Organizer George Googe and representatives of the AFL's Southern Labor Conference will be interviewed from Asheville, N. C.

May 7—The Amalgamated Trades' Members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union will call a grand ball for the benefit of the organization has benefited workers in the industry.

May 7—Organizer George Googe, AFL Regional Director, and David Lillienthal, TVA chairman, will describe the advances won by AFL organization of southern workers.

Say, Listen!

Forthcoming radio programs in the "Cross Section—AFL" series broadcast each Saturday at 2:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, over the National Broadcasting System, have been announced by Director Fenton for the information of the unionists everywhere so that they can make advance plans in time:

May 11—Southern Director. AFL President William Green, Organizer George Googe and representatives of the AFL's Southern Labor Conference will be interviewed from Asheville, N. C.

May 11—The Amalgamated Trades' Members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union will call a grand ball for the benefit of the organization has benefited workers in the industry.

May 11—Organizer George Googe, AFL Regional Director, and David Lillienthal, TVA chairman, will describe the advances won by AFL organization of southern workers.

15,000 Companies, Forced to Pay On Wages, Forced to Pay $15,000,000

Washington, D. C.—Chiseling on wages is still widespread despite vigorous efforts by the government to discourage the practice, L. Metcalfe Walling, administrator of the Wage-Hour and Walsh-Healey Acts, revealed in a report.

In the 18-months period ending April 1, Mr. Walling announced, more than 15,000 firms were required to repay 212,000 employees more than $15,000,000 in wages which had been withheld illegally.

In all, 20,000 concerns were inspected during that period. Some were selected for a checkup because of complaints lodged by workers, while others were picked because conditions are bad in the industries of which they are a part.

One of every two inspected establishments was found to be a law violator, Walling pointed out.

Some chiseling on the Wage-Hour Act, which calls for a 40-cent minimum wage and time and a half pay for overtime after 40 hours in industries engaged in interstate commerce and which prohibits use of child labor.

Others "cheated" on the Walsh-Healey Act, which requires payment of prevailing local wages in plants producing materials under contract for the government. Still others violated both laws.

James M. Landis, recently named chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, will head the fund's Cartels and Monopoly Committee. Marion Hedges, secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL), will represent labor.

STREETCAR AND BUS UNION WINS STRIKE IN ATLANTA

Atlanta.—The six-day transit strike ended here May 6 when 1,400 AFL union members employed on streetcars and buses returned to work under a new contract with the Georgia Power Company.

The agreement included a 19 percent basic wage increase to $1.07 an hour and an arrangement by which the company will make yearly payments to a special pension fund to be set up and administered by the union. The first company payment will be $45,000.

SPECIAL GROUP TO STUDY CARTELS AND MONOPOLIES

New York City.—A group of outstanding businessmen, economists and leaders in labor and agriculture will serve as a special committee to examine an investigation of cartels in international trade and monopoly in domestic business, the Twentieth Century Fund announced.

James M. Landis, recently named chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, will head the fund's Cartels and Monopoly Committee. Marion Hedges, secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL), will represent labor.

MEANY SEES INTOLERANCE THREAT TO LABOR'S AIMS

Intolerance, and particularly anti-Semitism, was sharply condemned in a recent statement by George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor.

Warning that workers cannot have or hold freedom to help themselves in a land where racial or religious discrimination is allowed to flourish, he said:

"The workers of America must fight anti-Semitism at every turn of the road, not only because it leads to subjugation and slavery for those who toil, but more basically because it is wrong and a contradiction of every civilized philosophy for human good which recognizes the existence of a Divine ruler. Anti-Semitism is not only anti-labor, anti-democratic and anti-social—it is anti-Christian and anti-God."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WRITE OR WIRE YOUR SENATORS TO SAVE OPA

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1946 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

BULLETIN!

Mine Workers Offer Truce To Relieve Coal Emergency

Washington, D. C.—The United Mine Workers Union offered a 12-day truce in the coal strike during which period 22 million tons of soft coal can be mined to meet the Nation's pressing needs.

If the coal operators agree to the truce, the terms of the new contract to be negotiated meanwhile must be made retroactive, the union's Policy Committee stipulated.

As this edition went to press, President Truman summoned UMW President John L. Lewis and Charles O'Neill, spokesmen for the coal operators, to the White House to discuss the truce proposed by the union and to take up compromise suggestions for the final settlement of the six-weeks-old dispute.

The UMW policy committee's action was a surprise move. A union statement explained:

"This action is the contribution of the United Mine Workers of America to our Nation's economy, which is being imperiled by the stupidity and selfish greed of the coal operators and associated financial interests and by demagogs who have tried to lash the public mind into a state of hysteria rather than grant justice and pending anti-strike legislation. Rejecting the loyal advice of leaders who condemned against any hasty moves in this direction, a strong faction in the Senate seemed determined to call up the anti-Labor Case bill for a vote. This bill was approved by the House of Representatives recently but rejected by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

Committee are determined to accept no contract that will not give to the mine workers the essential protection which is imperatively required."

The union emphasized that it was not retreating one whit from its demands in proposing the truce and that it will continue to insist on the establishment of a health and welfare fund in the mines and better safety conditions in the mines before the wage and hour issues are taken up.

The facts of Congress became the sounding board for the most virulent attacks on Labor, which is resented labor generally, with labor-baiters enjoying a field day and getting wide publicity for their rantine speeches.

Strong pressure developed in the Senate for expediting action on pending anti-strike legislation. Rejecting the loyal advice of leaders who condemned against any hasty moves in this direction, a strong faction in the Senate seemed determined to call up the anti-Labor Case bill for a vote. This bill was approved by the House of Representatives recently but rejected by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

"Let every member be assured that the members of the National Policy

Huge AFL Organizing Drive Launched In South; Meany Predicts Victory Over Reds And Bosses

Greater Social Security Seen As Vital in South

Asheville, N. C.—A nine-point program of the American Federation of Labor for broad expansion of the Nation's social security program was discussed in detail before the AFL Southern Labor Conference here by Nelson H. Cruikshank, AFL director of social insurance activities.

Declaring the goal of every American worker is good wages, justice in labor relations, bargaining conditions and job security, Cruikshank said union organization is the key to these and other aims.

"The AFL has designed this program to enable the worker, through social insurance, to provide for his needs and underwrite his risks," he said. "It accepts the present Social Security Act as only the beginning of a sound and comprehensive program of social insurance.

High on the agenda of the AFL, he said, are broadening of the old-age and survivors' insurance to cover 20 million jobs, including farm and domestic workers; a unified Federal system of unemployment insurance; a national system of job offices under the Labor Department; health insurance to rule out the loan shark; grants-in-aid for neediest sections, and full protection of all veterans.

"The Selective Service System," he said, "gave the Nation an inventory of health such as we had not had since 1918 by its examination of 14,000,000 young men. About a third were rejected for health reasons. There were only seven States where more than half of the young men were classified 4F. All of these were in the South and all are among the States represented at this conference."

Cruikshank cited the high maternal mortality rate of the South and the comparative shortage of doctors there as further evidence that Southern workers need the benefits which come only from strong union organization and its attendant higher standards of living.

Substitute Health Bill Hit By Green as 'Charity, Dole'

Washington, D. C.—Branding the Smith-Ball-Taft substitute health bill a "charity and dole" measure offensive to the working people of America, AFL President William Green sharply condemned the proposal and called for its defeat.

In a statement discussing the plan sponsored by three Republican Senators, Mr. Green said:

"Senator Taft of Ohio, together with Senators Smith of New Jersey and Ball of Minnesota, has introduced a so-called Health bill as a substitute for the Wagner-Murray-Dingell National Health Act. This bill is no sense provides health insurance or anything like an adequate health program. It is simply a 1946 model "poor law" extending the pernicious and outmoded method of relief to the field of providing medical care for the indigent.

"Its enactment would bring into operation the means test and send investigators prying into the private affairs and into the homes of workers in their communities.

"Though the bill provides for Advisory Councils the provisions violate sound principles of government administration. It is clear that these councils are to be weighted heavily by membership drawn from those having a financial interest in the operation of the proposed program and against the representatives of the consuming public.

"Moreover, the bill proposes to subsidize with Federal funds private health service agencies without providing any standards of performance or any representation by the recipients of medical care.

"Apparently the shocking health conditions revealed by the Selective Service examinations, the extensive revelations of the Senate Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education as well as the exhaustive studies carried on in this field by public and private agencies for the past ten years have failed completely to make an impression on the sponsors of this bill. They have turned a deaf ear to all the experts and harkened only to the special pleading of the reactionary leadership of the American Medical Association.

"The working people of America will not accept the Smith-Ball-Taft substitute for health insurance legislation and will look forward in their efforts to obtain adequate medical care and not backward. They will reject this proposal because they want health insurance on a self-sustaining basis—not charity and the dole."

President Averts Strike By 1,000 Pilots of TWA

Washington, D. C.—A projected strike of 1,000 pilots and co-pilots of the Transcontinental and Western Air, Inc., was averted by an order of President Truman for formation of a three-man board to investigate the dispute. The strike had been set for midnight May 9.

In notifying the Air Line Pilots' Association (AFL) that he would appoint a special board of inquiry, the members of which were not announced at this time, the President said the group would report to him within 30 days.

At the same time he warned that disputes threaten substantially to interrupt interstate commerce within several States of the Nation, to a degree such as to deprive the country of essential transportation service." For this reason, Mr. Truman said, the board is directed to inquire into disputes affecting 12 other leading air lines.

Besides TWA, lines named in the executive order are: American Air Lines, Inc.; American Overseas Airlines, Inc.; Braniff Airways, Inc.; Chicago and Southern Air Lines, Inc.; Delta Air Corporation, Eastern Air Lines, Inc.; National Airlines, Inc.; Northeast Airlines, Inc.; Northwest Air Lines, Inc.; Pennsylvania-Central Airlines Corp.; United Air Lines, Inc., and Western Air Lines, Inc.

Mr. Truman's order does not affect the terms of the railway labor act, which governs air lines. The strike, if it materializes, will be the first walkout of pilots since commercial aviation was established in this country.

David Behncke, president of the Air Line Pilots Association, declined to say whether the strike would go on as scheduled. He hinted that a statement would be forthcoming later.

Upholsterers Blame CIO For Steady Price Climb

Chicago.—Blame for price increases was laid squarely at the door of the CIO by Sal B. Hoffman, president of the Upholstery International Union (AFL) in convention here.

Strikes by the CIO in steel, automobiles and other manufacturing industries only after the Government established new wage-price formulae, were branded by Hoffman as "a serious setback for American workers."

Hoffman told the UIU convention that before last February, workers could make real advances in living standards by gaining wage increases of 10 percent or more, while price ceilings were held.

"Increases of 10 percent and more," Hoffman continued, "were obtained by organized labor unions that have adopted union labels, shop cards or service buttons. Our union label is displayed on all of our collective bargaining conditions and is used on contracts with engineering, architectural, manufacturing, shipbuilding, contracting and all other firms which employ local people.

"We are proud to be affiliated with the Union Label Trades Department of the AFL and, by continuing our positive action, we shall be able to maintain the high standards which we obtain through collective bargaining."

HARD-OF-HEARING VETS OFFERED SPECIAL PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—A special program has been inaugurated to aid veterans who have suffered loss of hearing or deafness, so that they may be able to find vocations in which they can succeed, the Veterans' Administration announced.

The education-wide project is designed to help the hard-of-hearing from the time they leave the armed forces by the many agencies which they have completed their education or vocational training and are placed successfully in jobs.

FEDERAL WORKERS DUE FOR 15% WAGE RAISE

Washington, D. C.—Tentative agreement on a compromise bill to give Federal white-collar workers a flat 15 percent pay raise awaits final approval of Senate-House conferees.

The measure reported agreed upon would require the Government gradually to lay off several hundred thousand employes, with a ceiling of 1,850,000 Federal workers by June 30, 1947, has been suggested. There are 2,350,000 full-time Federal employes now.

Meanwhile, the Government Employes' Council (AFL) called on Congress to require that all persons of doubtful loyalty to the U. S. Government be dropped from the Federal payroll. This action was aimed at the recently formed United Public Workers (CIO), which, at its convention, attacked this Nation's foreign policies and endorsed those of Russia.

CARPENTERS WIN JOBLESS PAY SUIT

Philadelphia.—The AFL United Carpenters and Joiners won a two-year battle when the State Superior Court ruled that an unemployed union man does not forfeit his right to unemployment compensation if he refuses to take a permanent job that would cause his expulsion from his union.

This decision was considered a major victory for the principles of organized labor.

John Seiling, member of the union for 34 years, was offered a job at the Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., Chester, Feb. 21, 1944. He declined on grounds that it was not a union shop and that the job paid only $1.01½ to $1.29 an hour as against the carpenters' union prevailing scale of $1.68 an hour. Furthermore, Seiling said, he was informed by the union that if he accepted the work he would be suspended or expelled.

When the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation cut him off the unemployment compensation rolls, he appealed to the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review, which reversed the decision. This opinion was upheld by the Superior Court, which ruled that a union's by-laws "must be more than written threats—that without force the latter are mere by-laws, a union would be a pallid, impotent thing, and by-laws fustian and its objectives unattainable."

NAVY YARD WORKERS ASK CONGRESS TO SAVE JOBS

Washington, D. C.—A delegation of approximately 1,000 Brooklyn Navy Yard workers, protesting at "wholesale" layoffs, came here to appeal to Congress to protect their jobs. The group was augmented by smaller delegations from navy yards in Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, S. C., Norfolk and this city.

Spokesmen for the delegations called upon individual members of Congress to further a program which calls for an increase in the 1947 Navy budget to provide more jobs; approval of legislation assuring job seniority and retirement rights and unemployment insurance for displaced navy yard workers.

MEDIATION BOARD AVERTS 37 N. Y. STATE STRIKES

Albany, N. Y.—Thirty-seven threatened strikes throughout New York State were averted by efforts of the State Board of Mediation in March, the State Labor Department announced. Fifteen other disputes which reached the strike stage were ended during the month with the help of the board.

Wages were the focal point in nine of the strikes occupying the board's attention in March. The other cases centered about such issues as union recognition, contract renewal, closed shop and layoffs.

DR. ELIOT BACKS PURPOSE OF NATIONAL HEALTH BILL

Washington, D. C.—Medical care and health services can be brought within the reach of all Americans, Dr. Elliot told the Senate Education and Labor Committee.

Urging the bill in its entirety, Dr. Elliot recommended particularly its maternal, child health and crippled children's provisions, characterizing it as the latter a plan to build upon existing programs now in operation under the Social Security Act.

PRATT EMPHASIZES VALUE OF UNION LABELS, CARDS

Washington, D. C.—Importance of the union label was emphasized in a statement by Walter J. Pratt, president of the International Association of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions (AFL). He said:

"In order to continuously improve American living standards, members of each union should reciprocate with members of other unions that have adopted union labels, shop cards or service buttons. Our union label is displayed on all of our collective bargaining conditions and is used on contracts with engineering, architectural, manufacturing, shipbuilding, contracting and all other firms which employ local people.

"We are proud to be affiliated with the Union Label Trades Department of the AFL and, by continuing our positive action, we shall be able to maintain the high standards which we obtain through collective bargaining."

ONEIDA UPHOLSTERERS GIVEN INCREASED WAGE OF 10¢

Oneida, N. Y.—A wage jump of 10 percent, totaling more than $104,000 a year for the 400 workers of Master Craftsmen, Inc., was announced by Local 393, Upholsterers' International Union (AFL).

Contract commitments will result in a 50 percent expansion of employment, company officials said. Hiring of the liner America, largest ship to sail under the American flag, is under contract for which contracts have been made.

GARMENT WORKERS GIVEN INCREASE ON WEST COAST

Portland, Ore.—A 10 percent pay increase has been agreed upon by the joint boards of the Pacific Northwest Apparel Manufacturers' Association and the United Garment Workers' Union (AFL), it was announced in Seattle, Harold S. Hirsch, association president, announced. The increase will be retroactive to February 11, 1946.

UNION ACTS TO PUNISH BLACK MARKETEERS

Omaha, Neb.—A drastic step to eliminate black market operations in meat has been taken by Local 44 of the Meat Cutters' Union (AFL). It adopted a resolution declaring that "any union meat cutter found guilty of practicing black market activities and accepting bribes or gifts for preferment purchases shall be expelled from our organization."

AFL Official In Keynote Speech Denounces Communist Political Plot To Raid Unionization Campaign

Asheville, N. C.—In a stirring keynote address at the opening of the Southern Labor Conference here, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany started the wheels rolling for an all-out organizing drive designed to bring a million new members into the American Federation of Labor within a year.

He pledged that in organizing the unorganized, the AFL will concentrate its efforts on improving the conditions of oppressed workers and promoting American principles.

The 3,000 delegates cheered lustily when Mr. Meany charged that the real revival CIO drive in the South is a Communist-inspired plot, motivated by political objectives.

With the opening ceremonies out of the way, the delegates got down to considering the adoption of policies to implement the organizing drive.

AFL President William Green, other high-ranking labor leaders and outstanding public officials were scheduled to address the conference at later sessions.

The intense interest manifested in the conference throughout the nation was evidenced by the presence of a large representation of newspapermen, radio commentators, photographers and news reel men.

George Googe, AFL Southern Director, presided at the conference and introduced Mr. Meany soon after the first session got under way for the delivery of the keynote address.

The unorganized workers of the South, Mr. Meany said, need trade unionism if they ever are to pull themselves out of the mire."—He expressed confidence that these workers "finally realize today that the only instrument by which they can ever hope to raise themselves to economic parity with other workers who have made such great advances in this country, is the trade union."

"Let there be no pussyfooting on the race issue," Mr. Meany emphasized. "The American Federation of Labor is determined to bring into the fold of real trade unionism all American workers of the South—white and black, Gentile and Jew, Protestant and Catholic.

"The American Federation of Labor has consistently opposed racial and religious prejudice in all its conventions. It stands on the same solid ground today—and has always—as the principles upon which they can ever hope to raise themselves to economic parity with other workers who have made such great advances in this country, is the trade union."

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Southern workers, Mr. Meany continued, have the choice between joining the American Federation of Labor, which has never swerved from the principle laid down by Samuel Gompers that "you cannot be a good union man unless you are first a good American," and an organization "that has openly followed the Communist line and is following that line today."

Mr. Meany cautioned the workers of the South not to be misled by CIO window dressing and camouflage.

"The real operators of the CIO-Communist drive to stop the AFL in the South are devoted followers of the party line."

Mr. Meany identified as Communists and Communist sympathizers the following members of the CIO National Executive Board:

Harry Bridges, Joe Curran, Julius Emspak, Lewis Merrill, Abram Flaxer, Ben Gold, Mike Quill, Joseph Selly, Lee Pressman and "last but not least, that distinguished politician, Sidney Hillman."

"Those are the people who run the CIO," Mr. Meany charged. "When we look over this array of Communist talent in key spots in the CIO organization, we can determine for ourselves whether the so-called Southern Director of the CIO is telling the real story when he says the Communists are not going to take charge of their drive in the South."

Mr. Meany also sounded the danger of Communist infiltration in organizing from these Communist CIO forces. He emphasized that the really powerful opposition the AFL faces is from the "representatives of entrenched capital who have exploited the South and its workers for many, many years."

He also predicted opposition from reactionary politicians "who fear that organized southern workers will become a threat to the political life of those who make capital out of their bias against labor."

Despite this peculiar combination of foes, the AFL is going to make an all-out campaign in the South and is certain to achieve its goal with teamwork and real effort by the representatives of all affiliated unions, Mr. Meany declared.

Before many months have passed, he concluded, the American Federation of Labor will be able to show that "real progress in the field of human welfare" has been achieved as the result of its organizing drive in the South.

CROSS SECTION--AFL

No. 5—National-International Issues

(Featuring Robert J. Watt, International representative of the AFL and member of the National Wage Stabilization Board, and Philip Pearl, National Information Director of the AFL, interviewed at Washington, D. C., by Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator, after the nine operators, who had requested this period to state their side of the coal dispute, declined to discuss publicly the issues involved.)

Washington, D. C.—Improved OPA enforcement, the coal mine shutdown and the issues involved, a long-range housing program to aid millions, an expanded social security program and the prospect for labor in foreign nations were discussed in the fifth of a series of radio programs entitled "Cross Section—AFL" when Dwight Cooke, CBS commentator, interviewed two AFL spokesmen here for the Columbia Broadcasting System over a Nation-wide hookup.

Both Watt and Pearl were sharply critical of OPA on grounds that its rules and regulations are inadequate. They called for an extension of the act, with strong tightening of its enforcement.

"We believe there is great room for improvement in the administration of OPA," Watt said. "Too much time and a great deal of time is being devoted by the top officials to propaganda, instead of better administration. In fact, I think the average American housewife is worse off now, in relation to the purchase of foods and clothing, than she was before.

Strong endorsement of the pending Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill was voiced by Pearl.

"The AFL is vitally interested in this measure," he said, "which calls for a 10-year program of new home construction, homes that are very badly needed by so many millions of our people, at the rate of about a million and a half new homes a year.

"Another feature which commends this legislation very highly to the AFL is that it has an amendment calling for the prevailing rate of wages on construction that's financed by FHA-guaranteed mortgages. The bill was passed by the Senate by the overwhelming vote of 50 to 21. Now it's in the House and we hope and expect our members will write to their Representatives urging support of this measure.

Watt expressed fervent hope for passage of the pending amendment expanding the Social Security Act.

"This isn't socialism—socialism," he explained. "The American Federation of Labor program includes very definite proposals for the development of insurances for disability, old age, unemployment compensation and a democratic system of health insurance.

Much of the legislative program supported by the AFL, Pearl told the radio audience, has been slowed by the political activities of the CIO.

Watt, speaking for AFL foreign policy, cited the danger to the CIO organization to Fascism in Italy, Nazism in Germany, the conquest of Ethiopia, Japanese interference in China, the Hitler "out" and totalitarianism generally. Striking out at conditions in Russia, he said:

"I'm frankly of the opinion that free labor never has existed in Russia and does not exist there today. We realize that the U. S. Government must deal with other governments, including Russia, but the AFL insists that any free, voluntary association of trade unions should not, and we do not, deal with any organization other than labor that is free, democratic and independent."

On the other hand, Watt emphasized the freedom of British trade unions. British socialism, he said, is just as free, and places just as much emphasis on decision by the democratic process, as in the United States.

Homeless Veterans Sidestepping Wage Law Suffer Setback In Highest Court

Washington, D. C.—Employers who have attempted to sidestep the wage-hour law by making compromise settlements with their employes suffered a sharp setback under a new 5-to-4 ruling of the United States Supreme Court which held this cannot be done. The decision involved a New York building which houses offices and dress manufacturers.

The court held that maintenance workers in the building are entitled to protection of the Wage-Hour Act, because the dress producers are engaged in interstate commerce.

Also, the court ruled that the employes may collect, not only back overtime pay for hours worked over 40 a week, but an equal amount in "liquidated damages" specified in the law.

The owners had made a "settlement" with the employes for the overtime pay due them. In turn, the workers signed stipulations releasing the owners from *future* claims. However, later some employes chose to sue for the "double indemnity."

Their right to do this was sustained by a majority of the high court. Justice Stanley Reed, who wrote the majority opinion, declared the "double indemnity" provision of the act was "mandatory" and could not be compromised. This penalty clause was written in, Justice Reed said, to enforce the underlying purpose of the act, which is "to secure a subsistence wage for the lowest-paid segment of the nation's workers."

D. C. Publisher's Wife Finds Miners Living Under Appalling Conditions

Washington, D. C.—"Appalling" conditions under which miners are compelled to work and live in the Appalachian Mountain area were described objectively in one of a series of articles written for the Washington Post by Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer, wife of the owner of the Washington Post, a conservative newspaper, after a survey which took her through the Harlan, Ky., area.

Many miners had been brought the Appalachian area of the bituminous coal fields, where the fatalities rank like the reports from the battle front, she reported.

Before the Christmas disaster at Fourmile, where 20 miners were buried alive, 27 miners have been killed by other accidents in this area. From 146 to 160 miners are killed in Kentucky every year. In 1944, 10,000 out of 67,000 coal miners were injured in non-fatal accidents in Kentucky; only 6,338 received compensation, usually inadequate."

"Demanding to know why the Nation countenances "such wholesale slaughter," Mrs. Meyer wrote:

"These miners need a welfare fund. They need much more than that. They need a chance to live like human beings, a chance to escape from the pigsties they are forced to inhabit. They need health instead of filthy water supplies, insanitary toilets, bad odors, flies, mosquitoes and disease. They must be assured a living wage. And they are entitled to safe working conditions instead of being forced to walk daily into a death trap. Above everything else, they must be freed from some of the most vicious operators and politicians that have ever turned American citizens into slaves."

Among the "horrors" which she said she witnessed on her tour of the Harlan area, Mrs. Meyer listed undernourished children living in filth; company houses which are mere hovels, with leaky roofs and crevices in floors and walls; a minimum of educational opportunities in crowded, four-room schools; mothers and fathers of large families cramped in small huts living on a slave level.

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